

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22ND, 2008 AT THE RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES CENTER 2600 NETHERLAND AVENUE

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Bob Abbott
Anthony Creaney
Tom Durham
Beverly Fettman
Nadine Baker
Ron Benenati
Judy Guariglia
Sue Lobel
Andrea Marais
Constance Segal
Manfred Segal
Sue Tozzi

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
CB #8
CB #8
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CB #8
Schervier Nursing Care Center
Council of Senior Centers and Services
VNSNY
Classic Residency by Hyatt
Hebrew Home
AARP
AARP
BJCC

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker, Ron Benenati, Council of Senior Centers and Services of NYC, Inc. (CSCS): the organization is a nonprofit to provide training and advocate for Senior Centers, funded by the City Council and member fees. It coordinates the funding requests for senior centers and helps to obtain funding from the City Council. The RFP for restructuring senior centers has not yet been released; there will be a 6 week deadline for responding. CSCS is attempting to "slow down" the process since it doesn't allow adequate time for coordination and joint planning by the centers. It funds research, including the recent rise in AIDS in older adults, principally due to longer life span. A current program in hospitality for senior centers is being done with cooperation from the Cornell Hotel Management program. A DFTA goal may be to remove food preparation from individual centers and have all meals catered. To reduce raw food costs as well as equipment needs, a purchasing program is available, one of the 3 largest serving area senior centers and health organizations. Any community based nonprofit is eligible to participate.
3. Agencies/Individuals
 - a. AARP: the 2008 agenda is to encourage organizations/businesses to develop long term goals for economic security and healthcare. The tax rebate of approximately \$300.00 an individual who earns at least \$3000 and files 2007 income taxes has passed. Employer paid pensions and healthcare benefits can be reduced if the employee is eligible for Medicare.

- b. Beverly: suggested a voucher system for taxi transportation to meet the needs of the frail elderly and also the disabled.
 - c. Tom: free tax preparation is available in the Bronx. AARP has a national program, sometimes provided in libraries. Check AARP website or 1-800-tax aid.
 - d. Judy, VNS: welcome
 - e. Schervier: A "decision day" will be held 4/16/08 in the Schervier Café to provide information on health care proxies, living wills.
 - f. Hebrew Home for Aged: A diabetes program will be held Thursday, May 1st, 2008 at Elderserve, 5901 Palisade. Hebrew Home operates a medical model day care program.
 - g. Bob: will work on directory of services focused on seniors. He was given Betsy Gottbaum's directory as well as a more commercial one provided by Andrea.
 - h. Classic Residence by Hyatt: the Memory Support Program has a couple of openings and is taking referrals.
 - i. BJCC: As of April 1st, 2008 no intake is being done for case management; the new provider is RAIN, 718-824-0400, x235. BJCC case management staff has attended job fairs sponsored by DFTA, but the new case management agencies weren't represented. Staff expects to be downsized.
 - j. Tony: those in the military 1956 or prior didn't pay into Social Security. After 1956, military or veterans could buy into the program to receive Social Security benefits.
4. Old Business: the Public Safety and Housing Committees would like to meet jointly to discuss possible legislative changes to tighten up safety requirements (emergency generators, evacuation plans) for senior/assisted living facilities. Currently NYC/NYS requirements don't conform to each other.
5. New Business: Karen will be in touch with CSCS to conform the Aging Committee's budget requests with those of DFTA funded agencies. Transportation needs and funding for a comprehensive services directory were identified needs.

Next meeting: April 22nd, 2008, 3:30 pm. Location to be announced.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce,
Chairperson
Aging Committee

KP:db